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My name is (Debbie Stein), and I am commenting on behalf of the Partnership of America's children. We helped lead the count All Kids Coalition, which ought to improve the count of young children in the 2020 Decennial Census. The partnership has three concerns we would like to share with the Census Bureau.

First, we note that the undercount of young children, which is a big problem in the Decennial Census, is also a problem in the ACS and other demographic surveys. Like the Decennial Census, the underreporting of young children in the ACS is much higher among blacks and Hispanics and among non-Hispanic white children.

We encourage the Census Bureau to focus on this issue over the next few years, particularly in the context of the ACS methods panel test. Where is the Census Bureau to focus on better rostering questions because our research shows upwards of 20% of respondents would not include the young child or are not aware that young children are supposed to be included in the census.

Second, we note that early in the Decennial Census cycle, there appears to be very little coordination about the count of young children among the various Census Bureau groups working on the Decennial Census. When the bureau created a task force on the undercount of young children, we saw significant improvements in the operational plan, the communications plan, research design, and the overall attention to young children.

We, therefore, suggest that the bureau needs a permanent task force charged with coordinating the data of young children across all its decennial and demographic work.

Third, we are deeply concerned about the implications of differential privacy for the count of young children. It creates significant variation in the quality of data at the local level. Research by Dr. (Bill O'Hare) on an earlier demonstration product that is posted on our website indicates that this may create significant artificial variation in the allocation of funding by geography.

Particularly for programs that allocate funding directly from national agencies to localities, such as the title one program for low-income schools and special education funding. We also know that this could create a major public relation crisis for the Census Bureau if neighboring communities see big differences in their federal fund allocations that have nothing to do with their changing demographics.

As the Census Bureau finalizes the differential privacy methodology, we hope that it will set epsilon at a level that protects the accuracy of children's data and children's program funding. It would be especially useful if the Census Bureau could create another updated demonstration product that includes data for children ages zero to four, or review these data, even for a sample of counties would allow us to access if the recent changes reduce the errors introduced by differential privacy in critical data about children.

We also are very concerned that in the context of differential privacy, the Census Bureau hasn't yet figured out how to report data that connects children with the adults in the household so that we can't tell whether the children are living with married parents, single parents, other relatives, or are foster children. These situations are critical for understanding child wellbeing.

And I'm sorry, I have one more item. Finally, in the CSAC presentation on the PES yesterday, there was acknowledgement of the issue of correlation bias in the estimates of coverage error for young children.

Are staff still exploring possible methods to correct for this bias? Has the Census Bureau asked the CSAC for input on this issue? Has the bureau asked the National Academy of Science to examine this problem? Has the bureau assembled a subject matter expert group to focus on this issue?